

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

08 3454

7 November 1978

Miss Charlotte Saikowski  
The Christian Science Monitor  
1 Norway Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Dear Charlotte,

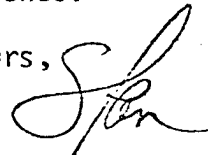
I don't think it is appropriate for me to respond to editorials as a matter of course. If I'm supportive, editorial writers are probably nervous about my saying it in any semi-public manner! If I am in opposition, I run the risk of appearing to be carping. Still, I would like to comment on a Monitor editorial on October 26th, "A Judge to Reckon With."

I have a lot of sympathy for the point of view taken here. There is no doubt that there is a demonstrable interest that the public get as much of the whole truth as possible about situations like this. You cover the fact that the public didn't get the whole truth in the case of Richard Helms in a very balanced way. In short, I am not complaining either with your support for Judge Parker in the Westinghouse case or for the principle of keeping the public as well informed as possible. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a speech I gave at the National Press Club just a week ago. It simply tries to put into perspective the difficulties that both we in the government and you in the media confront today with regard to protecting our respective sources of information.

On the basic issue of the benefits of disclosing the whole truth versus the benefits of protecting national security information, I don't have any easy answer. I respect your balanced view on the subject as shown in this editorial and I just wanted to share my concern that this is a problem of continuing importance the country needs to understand better.

I understand they are working out arrangements for me to drop in when I'm in Boston on November 30th. I hope that does work out, and if so, look forward to seeing you then. Best wishes.

Yours,



STAT

STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosure

Cys to DCI, D/PA &   
and ER (OGC reviewed prior to dispatch)

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY

FILE # A-4.4

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR  
26 October 1978

## A judge to reckon with

Barrington Parker is becoming a kind of symbol of doughty American judges who do not go along to get along. He really seems to believe that a courtroom is a place for the whole truth as well as nothing but the truth. He doesn't rubber-stamp plea bargains that conceal the whole truth even when they are set up by the most powerful of prosecutors and defendants.

This week U.S. District Court Judge Parker rejected such an agreement reached by the Justice Department and Westinghouse Electric Corp. It is incumbent on the Justice Department now to pursue the matter in fairness to all parties.

Is it justice for the foreign taker of a bribe to be protected by the court while the American giver of the bribe is prosecuted? We don't think so. But this was part of the rejected deal. The Justice Department argued that making public the facts of where the bribe was paid would not be in the interest of the United States. But what about the interest of the public and of the whole truth? The Wall Street Journal says that government records indicate the payoffs were made to an Egyptian official. Such information should be affirmed or refuted through the legal process, not suppressed by it.

A somewhat different question of secrecy

was raised by the Justice Department's plea bargain with former CIA director Richard Helms, which also was presented to Judge Parker. It was argued that legitimately secret national security information might have come out in a full trial on charges of lying to a Senate committee. In that instance, Judge Parker did not throw out the plea agreement but gave Mr. Helms a stern rebuke from the bench as well as the maximum fine.

In the Westinghouse case he questioned not only "all the secrecy and blotting out of information" but the proposed fine of \$300,000, which was less than the amount of bribery cited. Westinghouse had agreed to plead guilty on 30 counts of making false statements to illegally conceal foreign payoffs.

Two foreign-bribery plea bargains have already gone through this year, maintaining concealment of the countries and officials involved. It is to be hoped that Judge Parker's doubts about "blotting out" information will nudge prosecutors in the future not to settle for less than the whole truth. Shareholders and other Americans ought to know in which countries, whether friends or adversaries, their companies are placed in the position of gaining business through bribes rather than competitive quality and price.